

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 29 and 32 are being cancelled (claims 1-27 were previously canceled).

Claims 28, 31 and 33 are being amended.

Claims 34-38 are being added.

This amendment adds, amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 28, 30, 31 and 33-38 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action mailed May 5, 2003, claims 28-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims for at least the reasons given below.

The Office Action asserts that the following features of claim 28, "detect whether an error has been occurred in read-out data, corrects errors in the read-out data, counts the number of failure data in changing of data", are not sufficiently described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. The Office Action makes a similar type of rejection with respect to features recited in claim 31.

The features recited in presently pending claims 28, 30, 31 and 33, as well as those recited in newly-added claims 34-38, are supported at least by Figure 87 and in the specification. For example, please refer to page 65, line 36 to page 66, line 36 of the specification.

More particularly, Figure 87 of the drawings shows an embodiment which utilizes an error correct circuit (ECC). A person of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the ECC utilizes a "code" or a "check code." Therefore, when data is written, a check code is also written, as is known to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Additionally, there are additional descriptions in the specification that provide support for the claims. For example, please refer to "Hamming coding" on page 66, lines 1-10 of the specification, and "redundant cells", which both are error correction terms known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, "64 redundant cell bits" on page 66, lines 19-20 of the specification clearly signifies "check code" bits to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, all of the presently pending claims are fully supported by the specification, and thereby fully meet the requirements set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

September 5, 2003
Date

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